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Commissioner for Patents
by fax to 571-273-8300

Re:
Application Number: 10/814933
Filing Date: Mar. 30, 2004
First Named Inventor: Buchan
Group Art Unit: 1774
Examiner: C. P. Johnson
Atty. Docket Num.
HSJ920040023US1

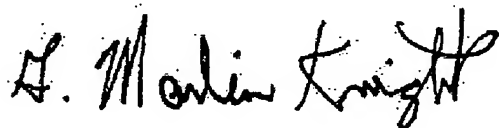
Notice of Appeal

Notice is hereby given of the intention to appeal the final rejection to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

The fee due with this response is **\$510.00** which should be charged to Deposit Account No. **50-2587**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account **50-2587**.

Respectfully submitted,

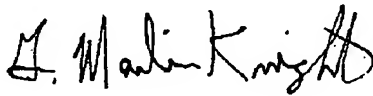


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CERTIFICATE of Transmission by FAX:

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removed, leaving a structure on the wafer having a cross-section that is similar to that shown in FIG. 6. Col. 6, lines 52-57.

It is clear that Lille's photoresist layer on the MSSQ is not transferable to a workpiece. Lille teaches developing the photoresist while it is on the MSSQ and then removing it. Lille's device cannot be used in the way that applicants' device can be used, i.e. for applying photoresist to a surface of a workpiece.

The Examiner noted that Lille's teaching does not include applicants' claimed cushion layer of rubber. Dependent claim 3 adds that the cushion layer is silicone rubber. The cushion layer again makes it clear that applicants' article is a "structure for applying photoresist to a surface of a workpiece" as the preamble states. Lille's article is simply a wafer that is being processed using photoresist applied by undescribed methods.

For a cushion layer, the Examiner cites Davis, et al. 6821626 "Fluorocarbon random copolymer for use in toner release layer." Davis is clearly non-analogous art in relation to Lille which deals with a "Method of forming microsuspension assemblies for direct access storage devices." Therefore, the applicants submit that there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to look to either Lille or Davis for a solution to the problem of photoresist transfer to a workpiece that is addressed by applicants' invention. Davis' cushion layer is not used as part of structure for transferring a photoresist to a workpiece and is, therefore, inapplicable. But even if one attempts to combine Lille or Davis, the applicants' structure cannot be obtained.

The office action also rejects claims 11 and 14-16 under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lille, 6,725,526 in view of Davis, et al. 6,821,626 further in view of Drake 6,200,882. Applicants respectfully disagree. Drake teaches a "Method for processing a plurality of micro-machined mirror assemblies" and is again non-analogous art in relation to Lille, Davis and the applicants' claims because Drake does not teach a structure for transferring a photoresist to a workpiece. Drake is describing a method for processing a plurality of mirror assemblies formed from a silicon wafer.

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Given all of the references, one of ordinary skill in the art in the art of applying photoresist to workpieces would not be led to assemble applicants' claimed structure of a transfer layer of polydimethylsiloxane with a transferable coating of photoresist and a cushion layer consisting of rubber under the transfer layer.

Claim 15 is directed to an embodiment that includes a cover-tape attached to the cushion layer. The cover-tape is larger in area than the cushion layer and extending beyond at least first and second edges of the cushion layer. Claim 16 is directed to an embodiment that includes a stiffener layer attached to the cushion layer, and a cover-tape attached to the stiffener layer. In particular, applicants would point to the cover-tape in these claims as clearly distinguishing applicants claimed article from the wafer in Lille and the other references.

Applicants' independent claim 17 is for a "structure for applying photoresist to a surface of a workpiece" that includes a cover-tape, at least two photoresist transfer pads attached to the cover-tape, and a cushion layer. The office action also rejects claims 17-23 under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka, et al. 2003/0197978 further in view of Bietsch 2005/0191582. Because Otsuka's teaching is not related to applicants' claimed structure is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has equated non-analogous elements in Otsuka to applicants' claimed elements. First, the Examiner equated the cover-tape to a carbon film on a wafer. It is respectfully submitted that the term "cover-tape" as used in applicants' specification and claims and as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art cannot be read on a carbon film on a silicon wafer.

The Examiner noted that Otsuka does not teach the polymer layer with a transferable coating of photoresist nor a cushion layer. The Examiner then cited Bietsch for PDMS or silicone rubber in resist compositions. Bietsch describes a mechanically releasable slider process that utilizes silicone rubber or PDMS to take the function of a planarization material for individual sliders or slider rows. Bietsch's invention uses PDMS as planarization and bonding material of individual sliders or slider rows. (see paragraph 0023.) Applicants respectfully

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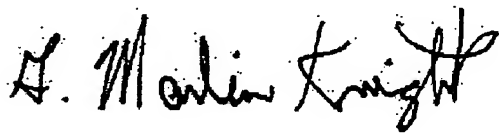
disagree that Bietsch adds the elements that the Examiner admitted are missing from Otsuka. Neither Otsuka nor Bietsch teach the claimed cover-tape with at least two photoresist transfer pads attached to the cover-tape.

In dependent claim 22 the cover-tape and photoresist pads are formed into a roll. Dependent claim 23 recites that the photoresist pads are sequentially disposed on the cover-tape so that unrolling the roll sequentially exposes the photoresist pads. Dependent claims 22 and 23 emphasize that the cover-tape cannot be equated to a carbon film on a wafer. Among many differences, the carbon film on wafer cannot be rolled up as claimed.

None of the cited references have any comparable teaching to applicants' invention that includes a cover-tape with a plurality of photoresist transfer pads as claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references singly and when combined fail to teach claimed elements of applicants' claims. Applicants, therefore, believe that all of the claims in application are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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